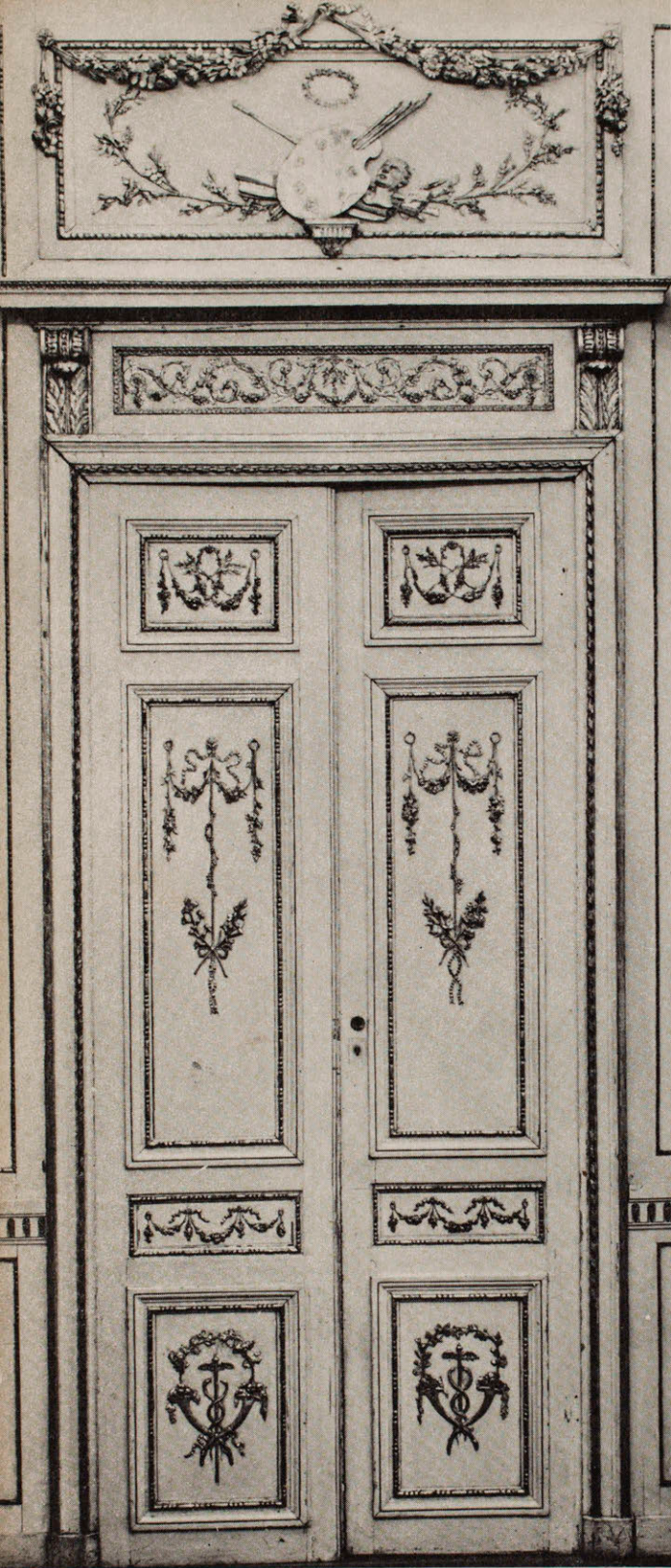




Quarterly

LOS ANGELES
COUNTY MUSEUM

Vol. 12 No. 4

THE FRENCH PERIOD ROOMS

THE FRENCH PERIOD ROOMS

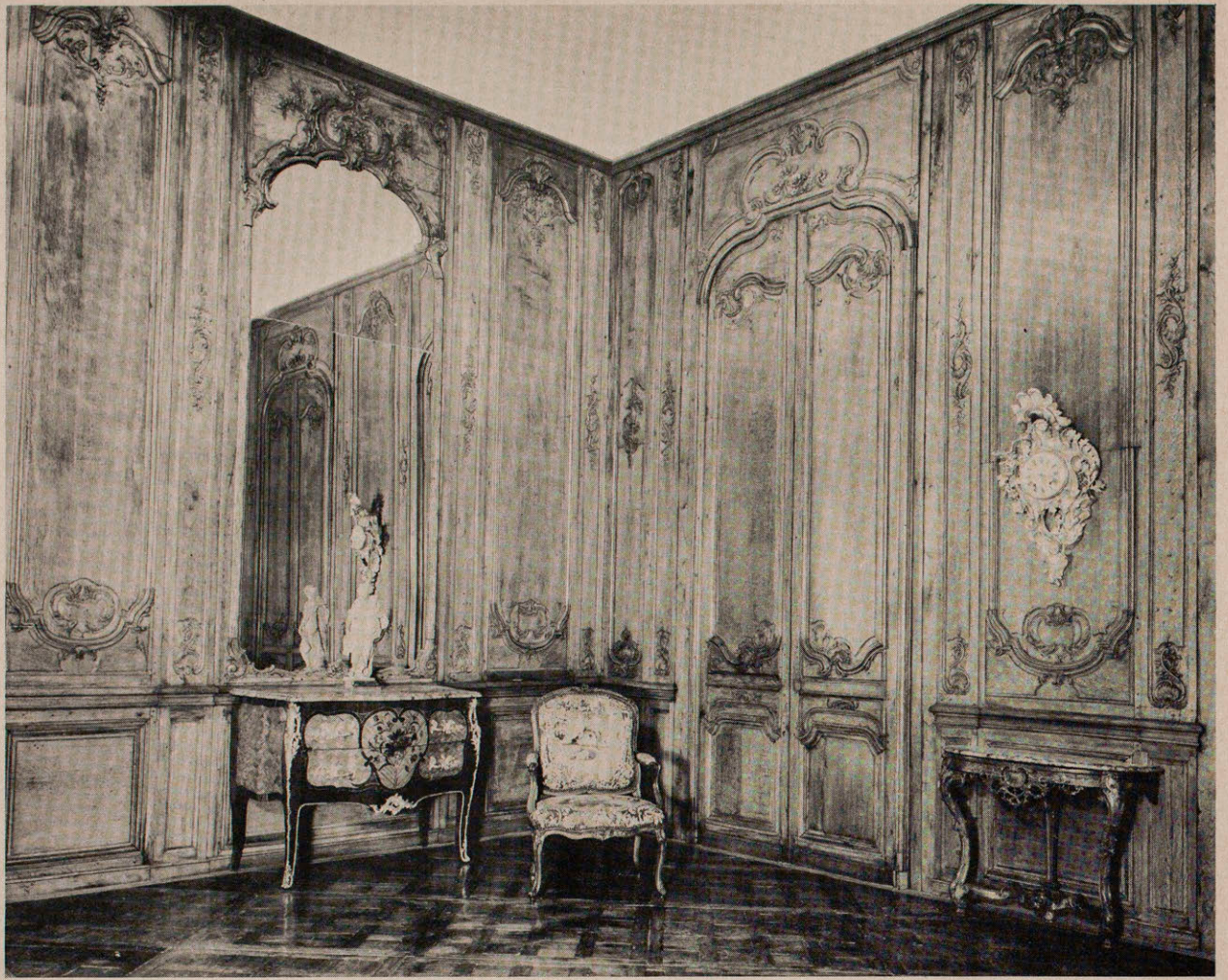
The Art Division is devoting this issue of the *Quarterly* to the illustration and description of five eighteenth century French rooms which have been presented to The Museum by Judge and Mrs. Lucius P. Green. These period rooms, to be known gratefully as The Adele S. Browning Memorial, are among the finest in America. In giving them to The Museum, Judge and Mrs. Green have added immeasurably, by their taste and generosity, to the cultural richness of Los Angeles.

The rooms range in style from the mid-century complexity of delicate curves and involutions to the end of the century, when this rococo graciousness submitted once again to classical principles. Whether in Louis XV or in Louis XVI style, each room is carved and decorated with the brilliantly inventive and magnificently varied vocabulary of forms that set the pattern of taste for the entire western world in the eighteenth century. Contrived with such consummate skill, these rooms reflect an age when craftsmanship was raised to the level of a truly creative and expressive art.

The Museum has acquired parquet floors in oak, walnut and cherry of the same period. Although now open to the public, the rooms are not yet entirely furnished, but they will gradually be completed as the proper pieces can be found and the money for their acquisition becomes available. This issue of the *Quarterly* illustrates several French eighteenth century objects already the property of The Museum but not previously published, and a few recently acquired pieces that will be used for furnishing these period rooms or the adjoining eighteenth century French gallery where a new installation has been made to harmonize with the rooms.

This number of the *Quarterly* has been edited by Mr. Gregor-Norman-Wilcox, Curator of Decorative Arts.

RICHARD F. BROWN
Chief Curator of Art

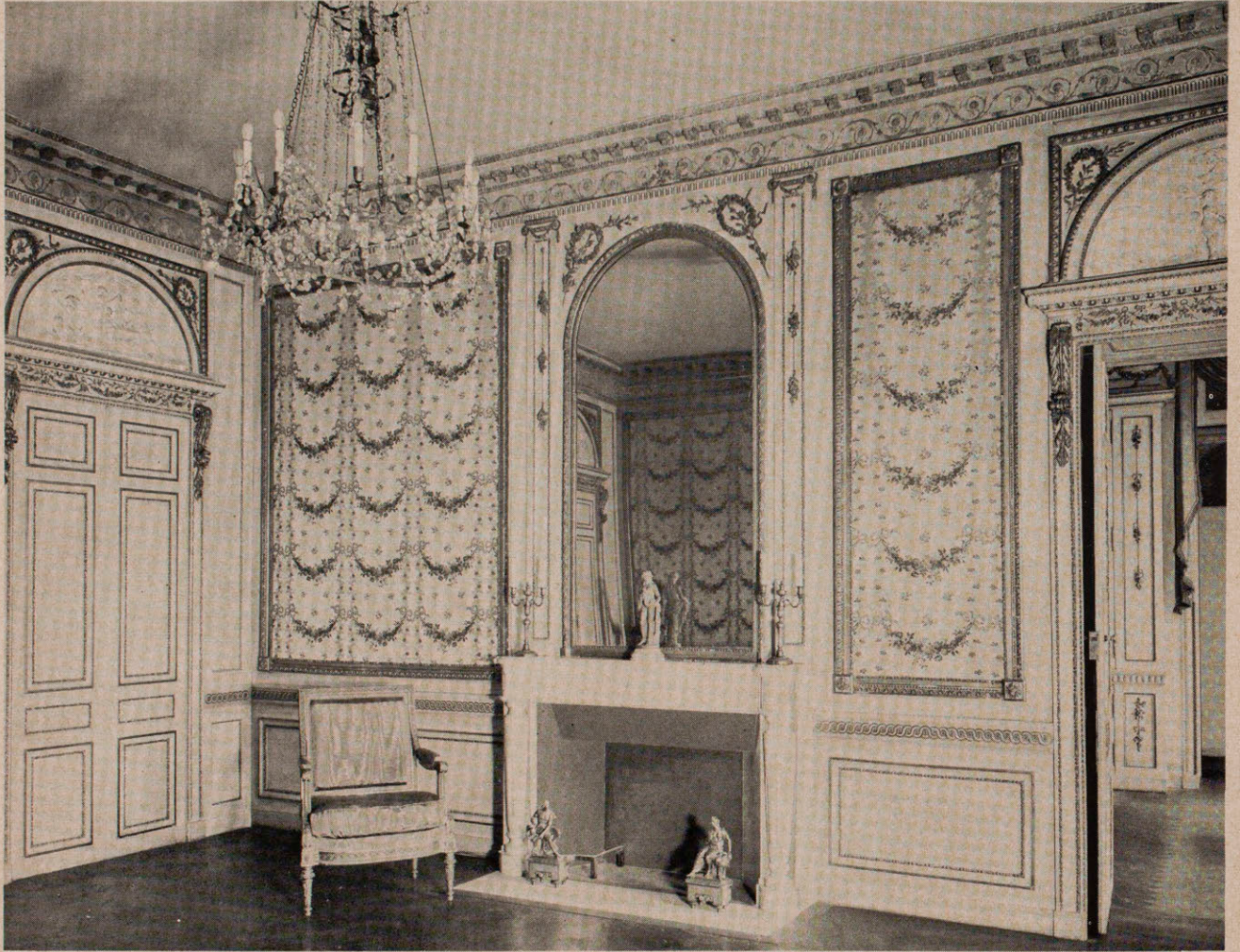




Left—The Oak Room, east and south walls

Right—The Oak Room, south and west walls

Left, below—Detail of carving, east wall



The East Wall, Salon



Jérôme Marlet (1731-1810), architect-decorator of Dijon, Cote-d'Or

*From a pastel by Claude Hoin
in the Musée de Dijon*

SUITE of THREE ROOMS from DIJON

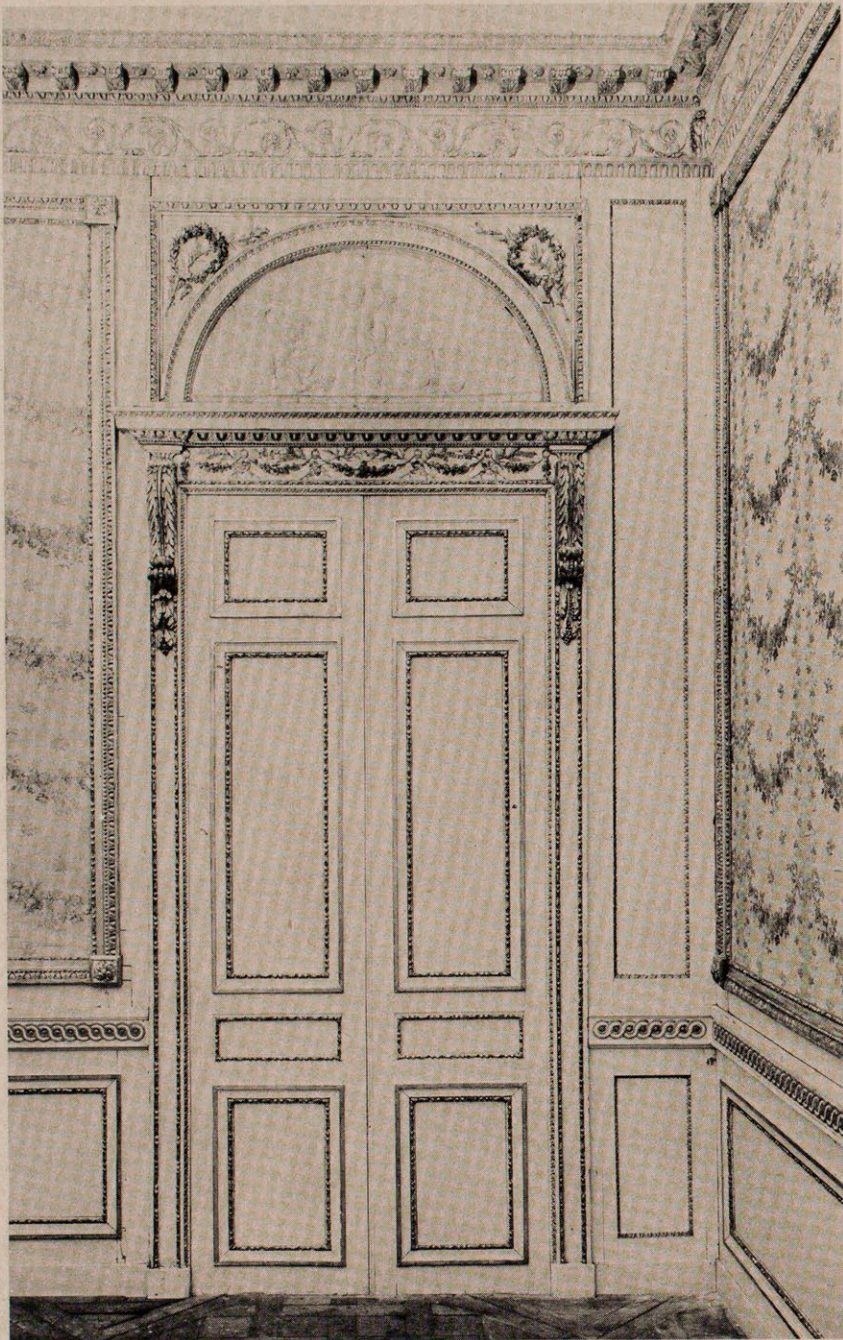
French, style Louis XVI, *circa* 1770-80. From a private mansion the hôtel Gaulin, at 11 bis rue Saint-Pierre, in Dijon, Cote-d'Or. The house had been built in the early 18th century, for a certain Comte d'Auvillars

The design of the rooms, and perhaps their execution as well, is credited to Jérôme Marlet (1731-1810) who was of a family of Dijonnais wood sculptors. He was from 1777-89 a member of the jury of the École des Beaux-Arts of Dijon, and from 1806-10 curator of the Musée de Dijon. See Leon Deshairs, "Dijon, Architecture et Décoration au dix-huitième siècle," pls. 86-88 (salon), 89-93 (library), 94-97 (bedroom), and pg. x for the facade of the hôtel Gaulin; also Henri Chabeuf, "Dijon, Monuments et Souvenir" (1894) pg. 421; also Seymour de Ricci, "Le Style Louis XVI" pp. 29-30 (the salon and library *in situ*)

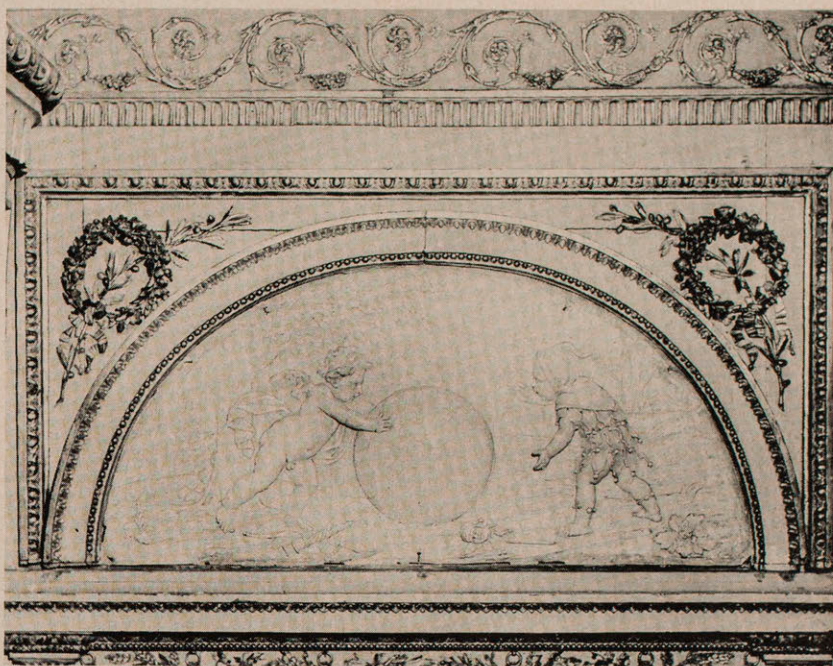
Formerly in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where known as the Morgan Rooms (installed 1922 in the Morgan Wing). See their *Bulletin*, Vol. XVIII (1923), pp. 267-272: "Three Louis XVI Rooms"

The Adele S. Browning Memorial Collection, gift of Mildred Browning Green and Judge Lucius P. Green

A.6052.53-4,5,6



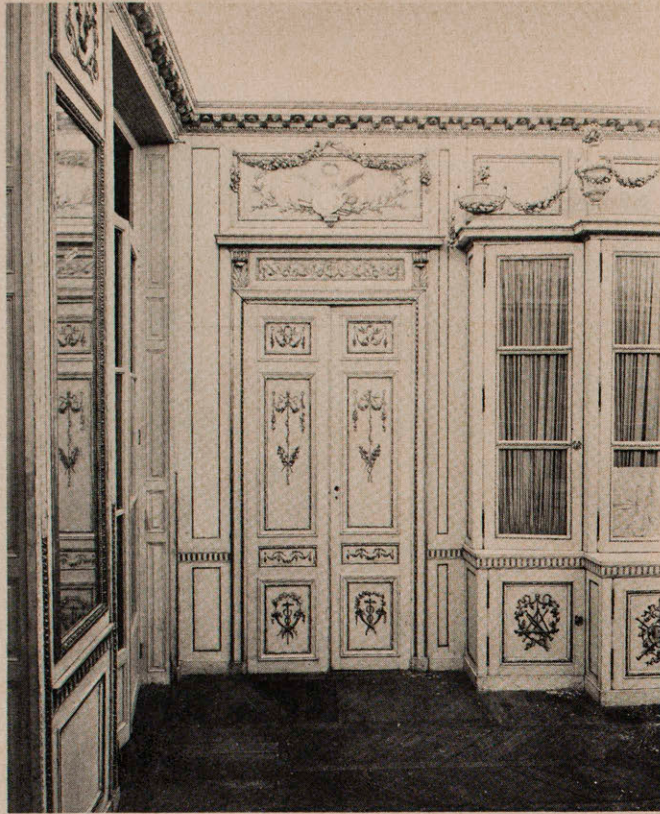
Doorway, the West Wall



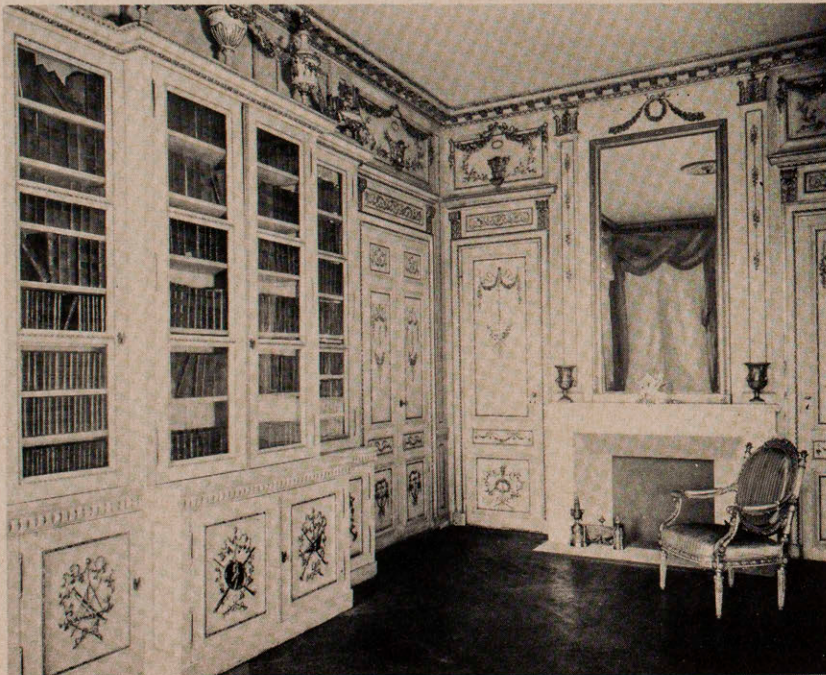
*Over-door lunette,
"The World as a Plaything of Love and Folly"*

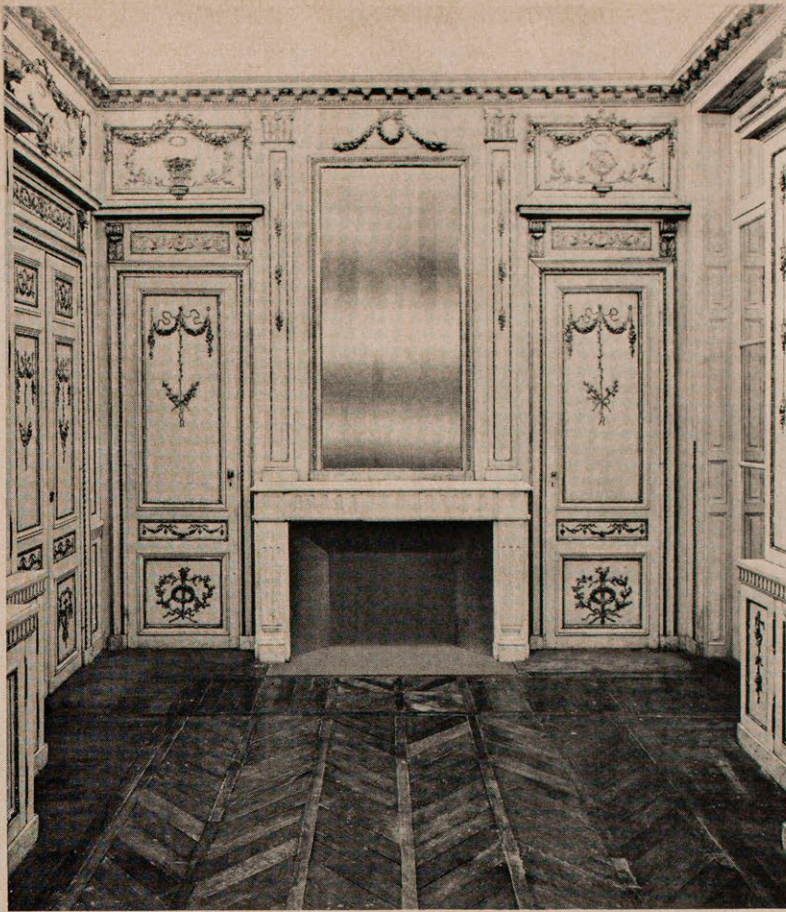
SALON: of the Three Dijon Rooms
(16 feet 9 inches x 20 feet 10 inches)

With plaster over-door lunettes by Marlet, the subjects Wine, Gaming, the Wheel of Fortune, and the World as a Plaything of Love and Folly. Contemporary oak flooring in parquet of Versailles design



Doorway, east wall (the same is shown FRONT COVER)





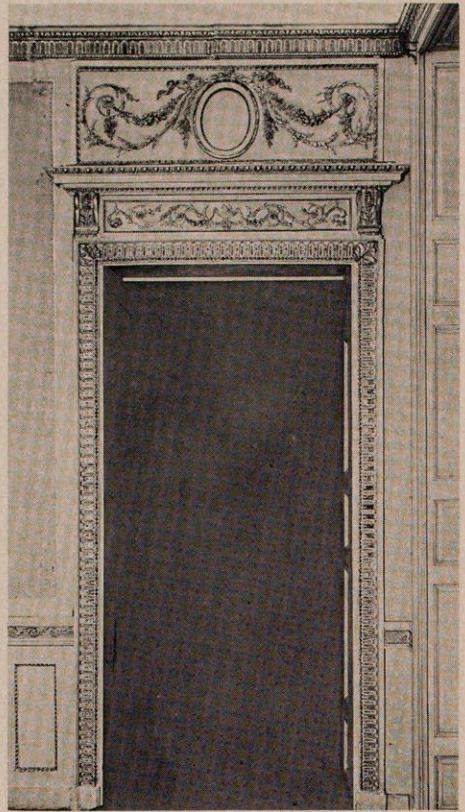
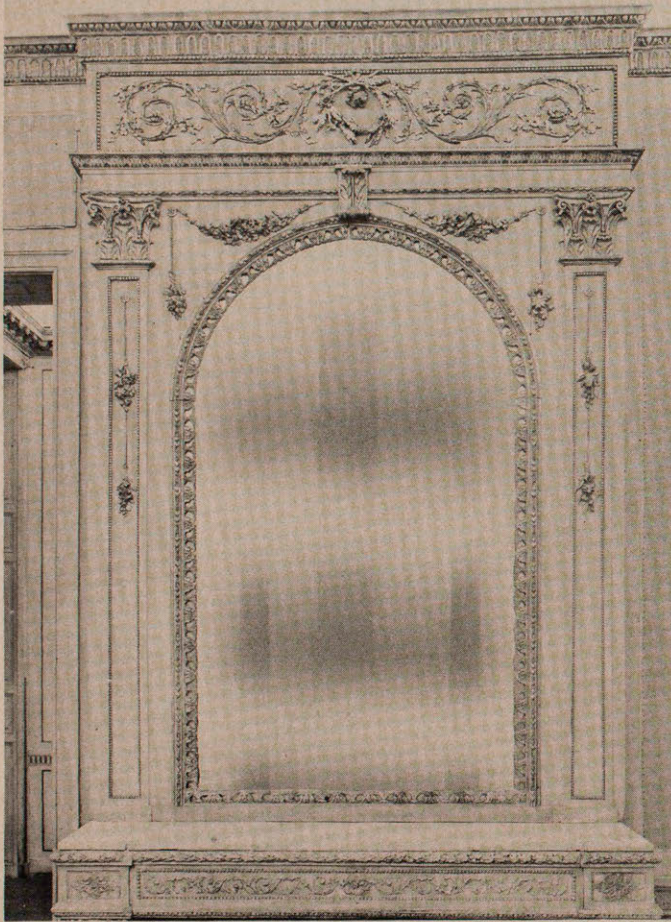
Mantelpiece, South Wall

LIBRARY: of the Three Dijon Rooms
(12 feet 7 inches x 21 feet 6 inches)

With over-door sculptures emblematic of Architecture, Painting, Music, and the Mathematical Sciences. Contemporary oak flooring of double-mitred herringbone parquet.

Bookcase, West Wall (left, below)

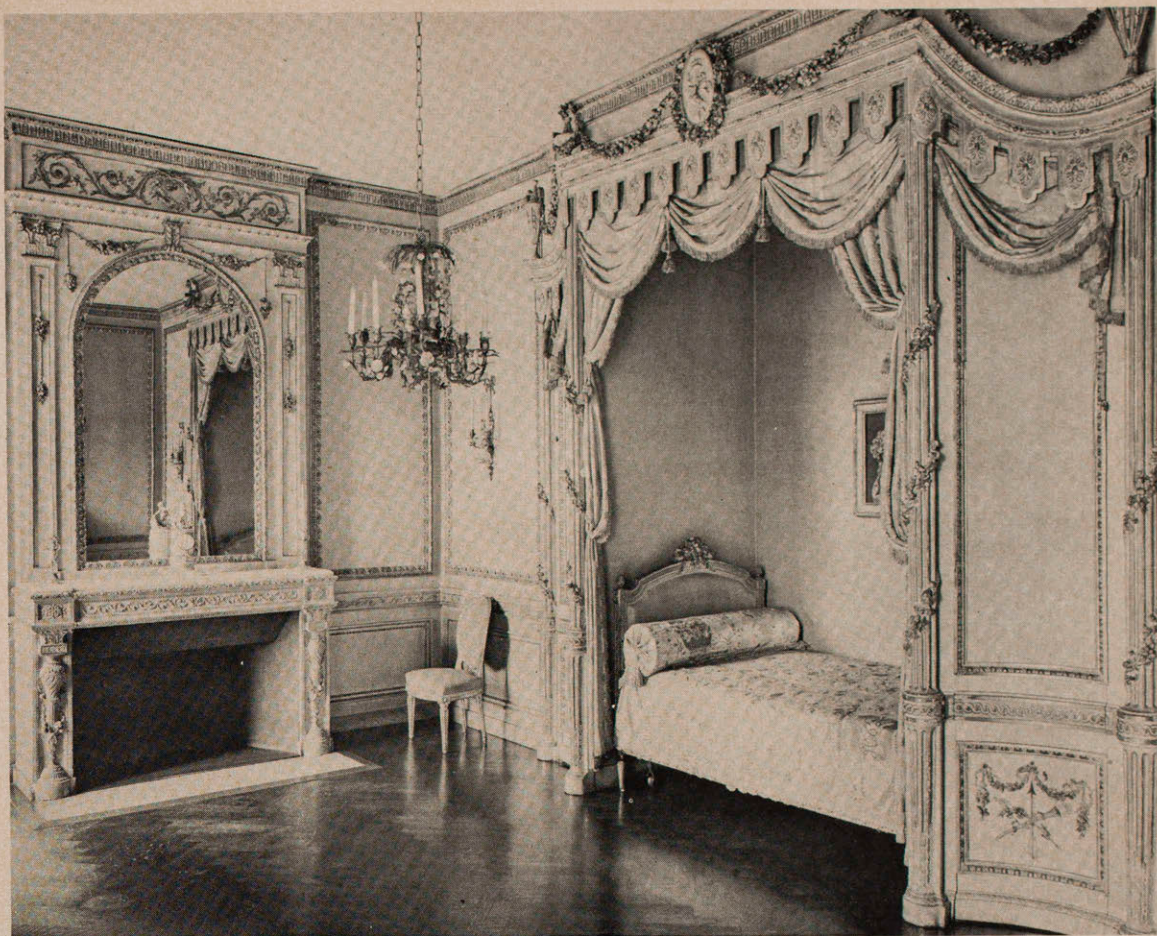
Photograph courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, from the room as formerly exhibited by them.



Doorway, west wall

Overmantel, east wall

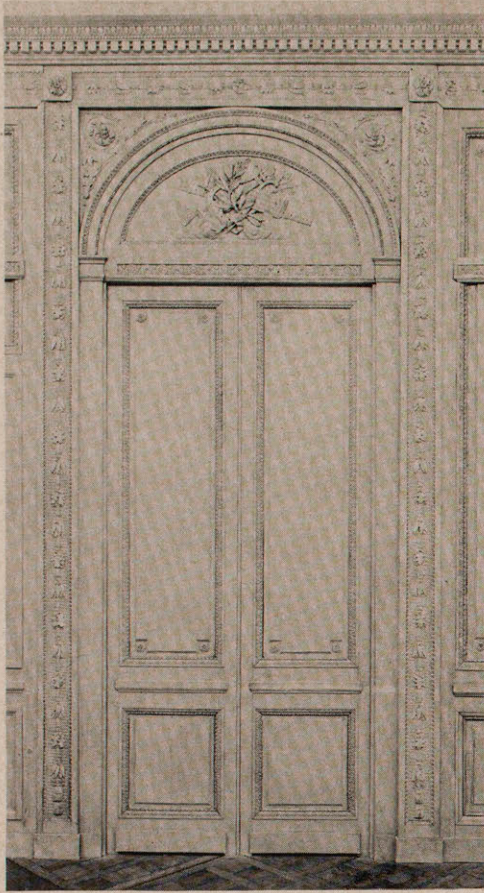
Bed alcove, south wall



BEDROOM: of the Three Dijon Rooms
(14 feet x 20 feet 6 inches)

With a shaped recess for the bed, framed with gilt woodcarving of a lambrequin and flower-twined pilasters. Finely carved marble mantelpiece, the plain marble mantels in the other two rooms having been designed for or-molu enrichments which were never completed. Contemporary parquet flooring in walnut and cherry

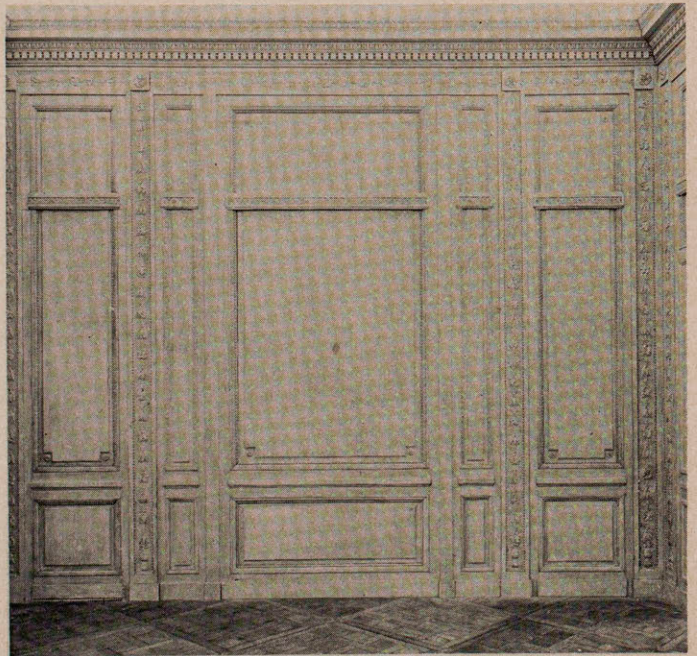
Alcove photograph, courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, from the room as formerly exhibited by them. Also acquired with the room, this contemporary French carved and gilded bed, style Louis XVI—recent purchase of Museum Associates (the Balch Fund), L.2100.54-151.

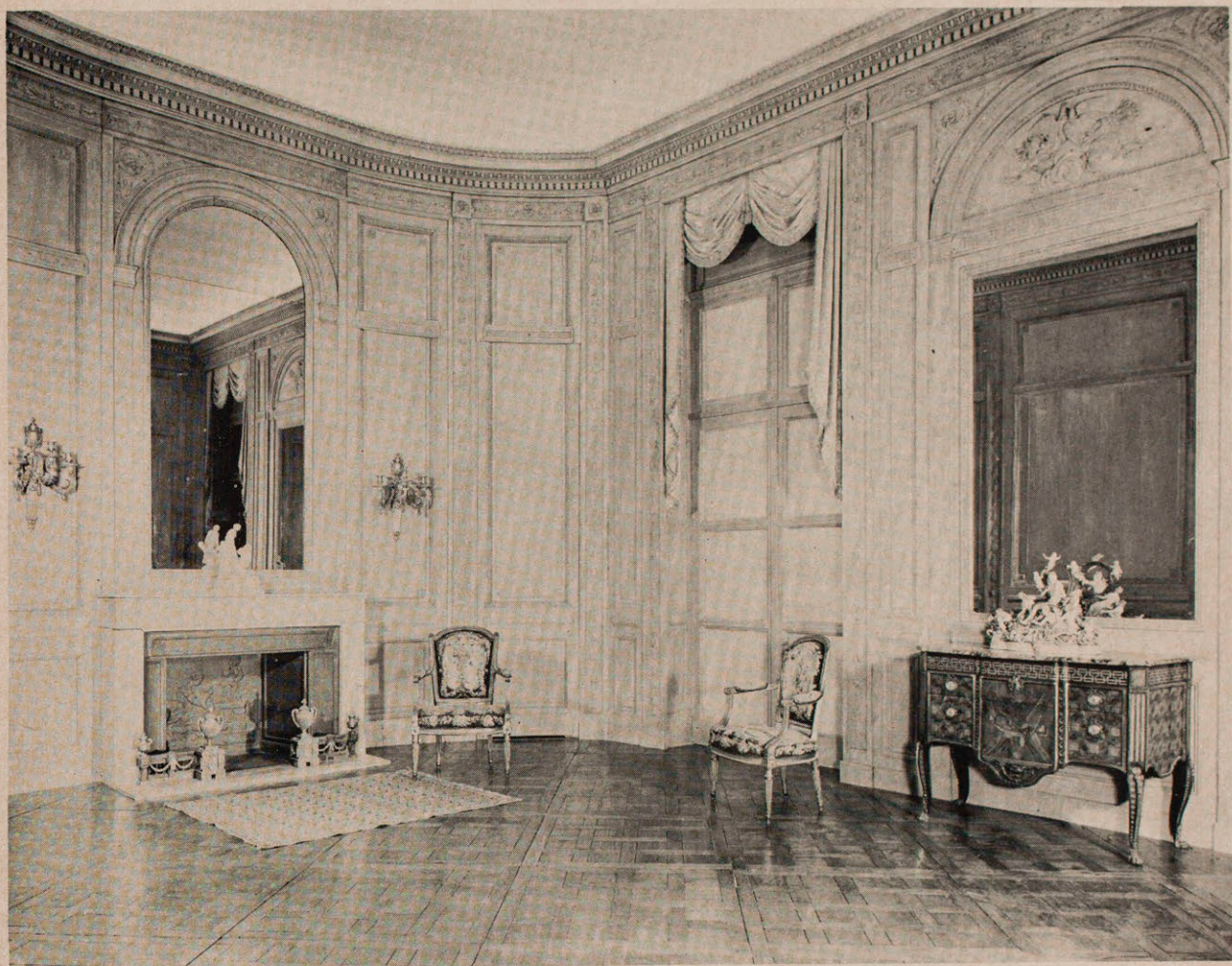


Doorway, east wall

North wall of room

South wall of room (opposite)





RECEPTION ROOM from BORDEAUX
(16 feet 7 inches x 25 feet)

French, style Louis XVI, 18th Century. From a house in the Place du Theatre, Bordeaux

Carved and painted *boiserie* of design attributed to Victor Louis, with contemporary oak flooring in parquet of so-called Marie Antoinette design. Formerly in the Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Adele S. Browning Memorial Collection, gift of Mildred Browning Green and Judge Lucius P. Green

A.6052.54-7

Marqueterie Commode

(23 x 48 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, height 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches)

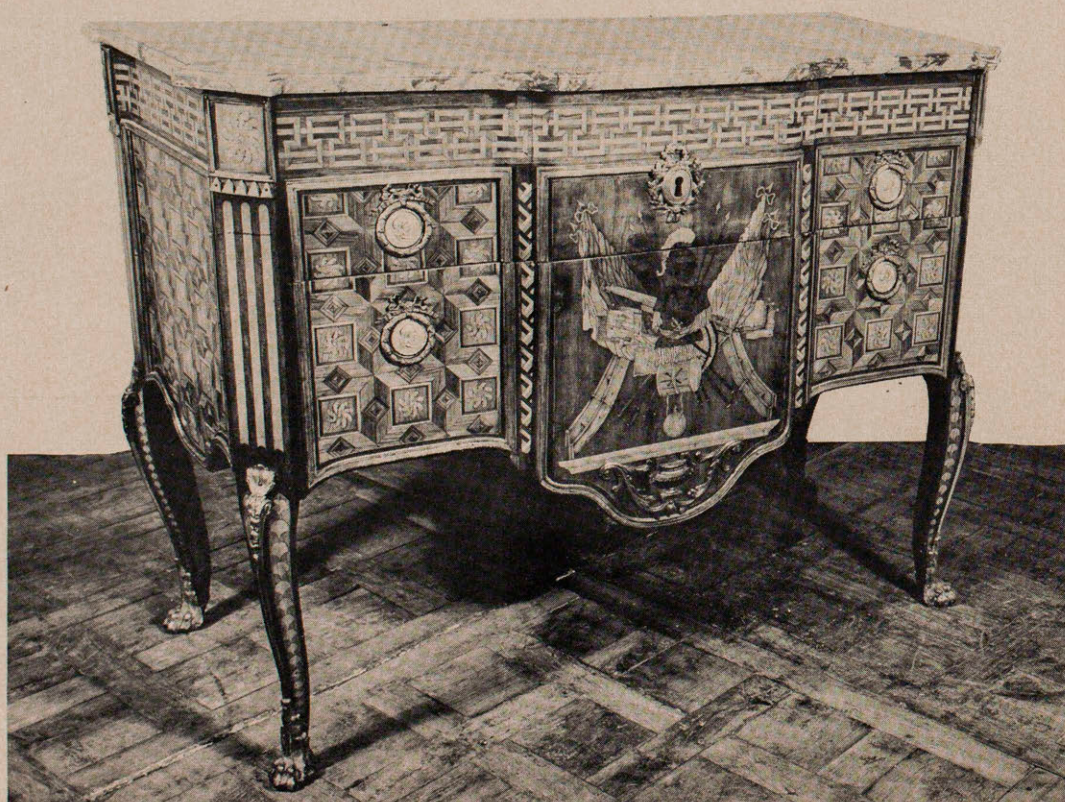
French, style Louis XVI, 18th Century: attributed to Christofe Wolff (1720-1795)

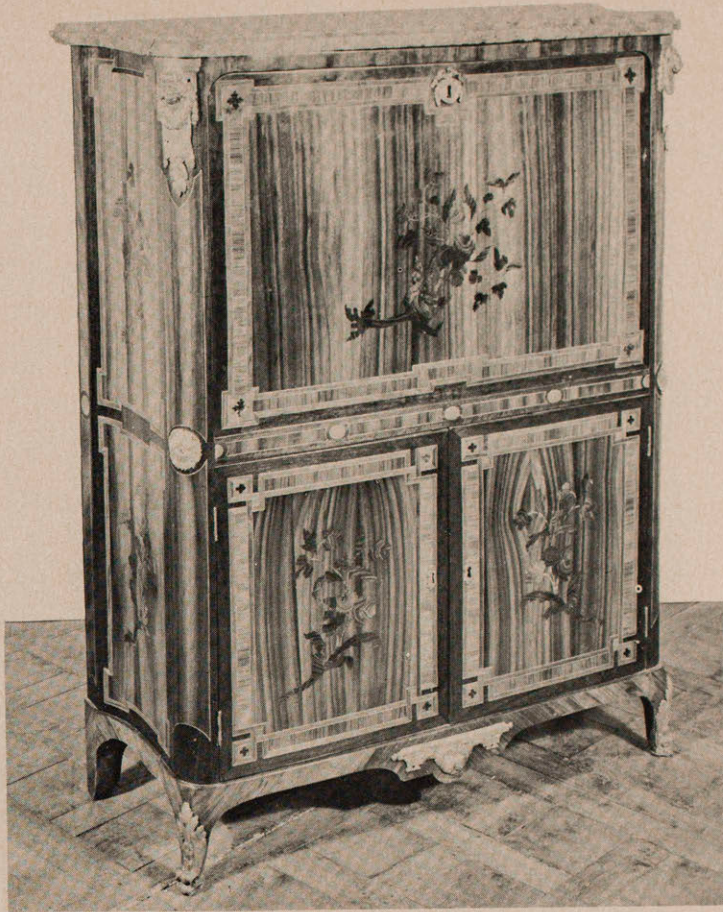
Of tulip, palisandre, and other exotic woods, with shaped top of Sarrancolin marble. Center panel with an inlay of military trophies, sides and ends with diaper parquetry of flowers, key-pattern frieze. Chased or-molu mounts

Ex-collection E. Stettiner, Paris; from Duveen Brothers

Gift of Hearst Magazines, Inc.

A.5770.47-33





Secrétaire à Abattant

(15½ x 40 inches, height 51 inches)

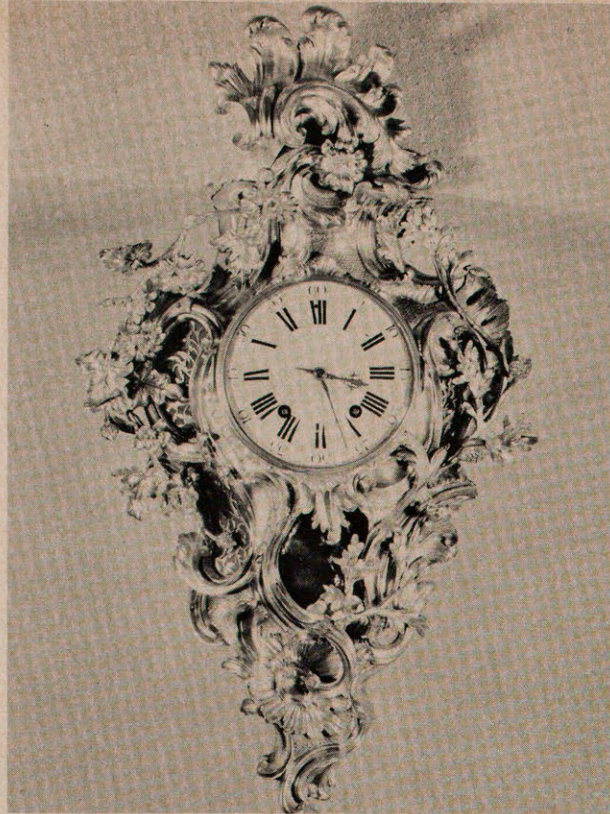
French, style Louis XVI, 18th Century. Stamped: *N.Petit ME*, the mark of Nicholas Petit (1732-1791, master ebeniste January 21st 1761). He was best known of five cabinet-making members of the family, and his workshop at the Name of Jesus, rue Faubourg Sainte-Antoine, became highly fashionable

Veneers and crossbanding of tulipwood, palisandre, rosewood, with inlaid flower sprays and embellished with or-molu mounts. Shaped top of Breche d'Alpe marble, and the fall-front panel disclosing an interior arrangement of drawers and pigeonholes. A companion desk is on p.145 of Seymour de Ricci, "Louis Seize Furniture"

Formerly on loan to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, from Martha C. Codman (Mrs. Maxim Karolik) one of whose ancestors acquired the desk in Paris about 1795, from the husband of Mme. Vigée-Lebrun

Gift of Hearst Magazines, Inc.

A.5770.47-38



Cartel Clock

(height 35½ inches, width 20 inches)

French, style Louis XV, mid-18th Century

Bronze doré, an open asymmetrical surround of scrollwork, acanthus, frilling, with freestanding rose and pomegranate branches at the sides; two grilles of fine scrollwork backed with green fabric

Museum Purchase, 1955

P.246.55-1

Figurine, "Ceres"

(height 20 inches)

French, early 18th Century: attributed to Nicolas Coustou (1658-1733). Terracotta model for a marble. A standing figure wearing flowers in her hair and carrying a sheaf of corn

Ex-collection Charles Perriolat, Paris; from Duveen Brothers

Gift of Hearst Magazines, Inc.

A.5770.47-30

Pair of Andirons

(height 15¾ inches, width 17½ inches)

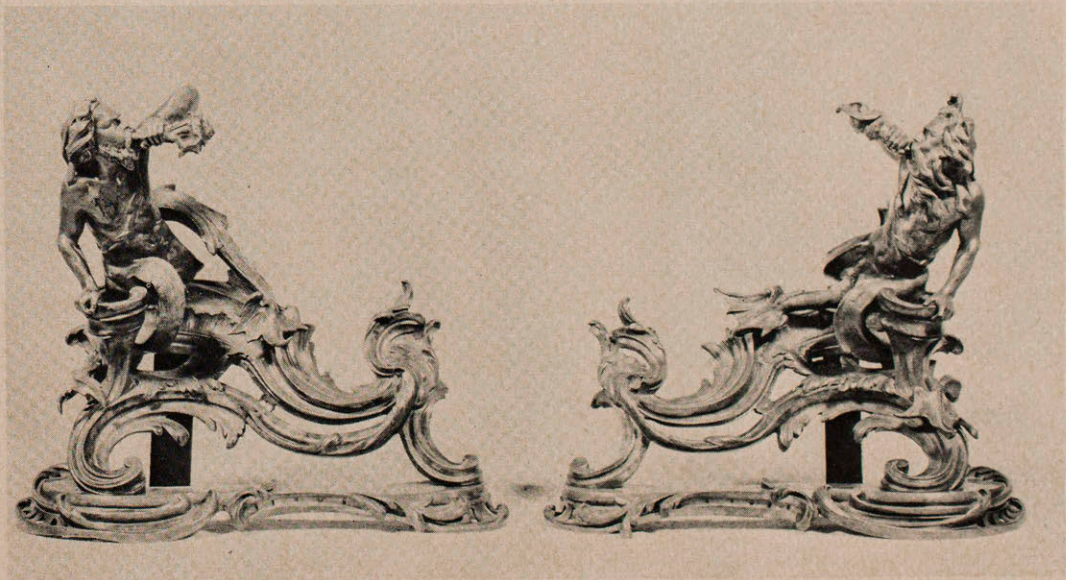
French, style Louis XV, 18th Century

Bronze, with spirited figures of a triton blowing a shell horn, carried on a wavelike base formed of open scrolls with frilling and acanthus leaves

Ex-collections Alfred de Rothschild and Lady Carnarvon

Museum Purchase, 1955

P.247.55-1



Pair of Wall Lights

(height 26 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches, spread 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches)

French, style Louis XVI, *circa* 1770

Bronze doré, the fluted shaft with a ram's head and laurel swags, topped with an urn carrying flower garlands. Three molded candle branches with acanthus leaves and pendant laurel swags, the wax-pans with lanceolate leaves and laurel brim

With stamped marks and inventory-numbers of the Chateau d'Eu

Museum Purchase, 1955

P.246.55-2

Pair of Fauteuils

(height 36 inches)

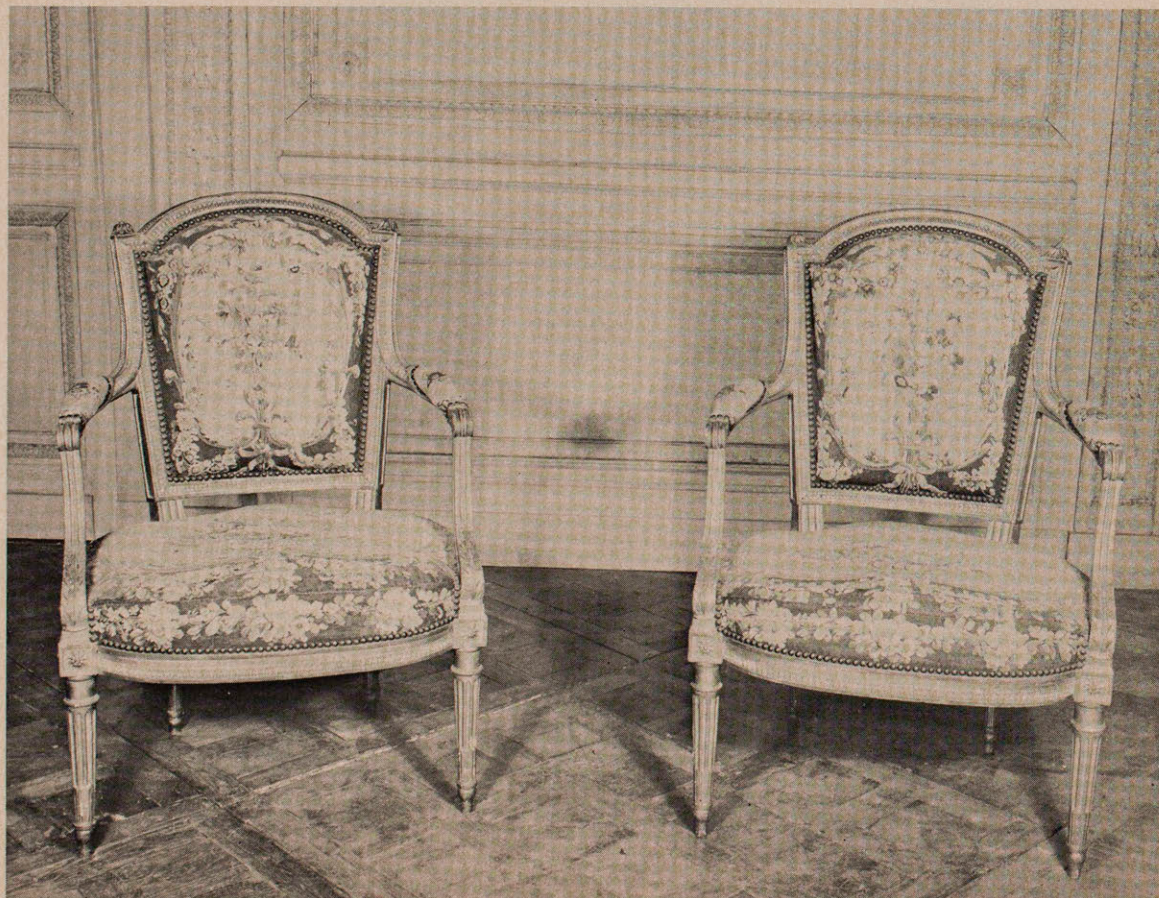
French, style Louis XVI, 18th Century. Frames with the stamped mark of Georges Jacob (master ebeniste Sept. 4th 1765)

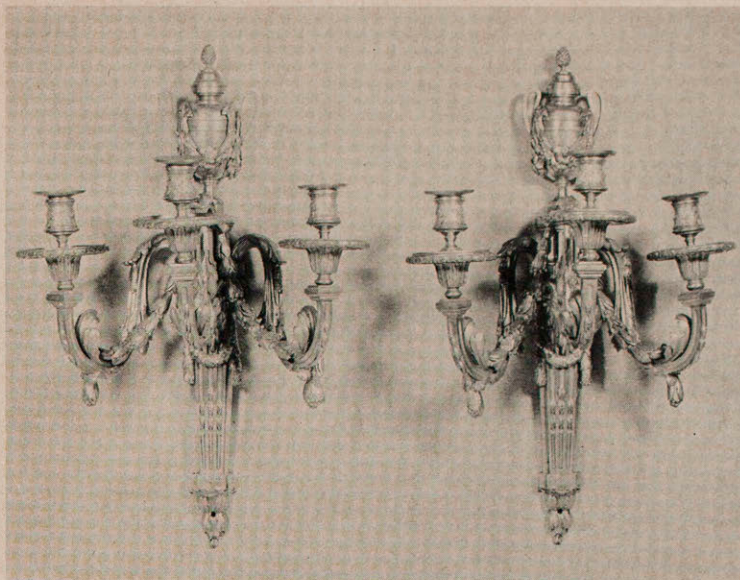
Finely carved and gilded frames, flowered Beauvais tapestry covers with burghundy ground. A similar armchair, also signed *G.JACOB* and in Beauvais tapestry, is in the Musée du Louvre, shown in Carle Dreyfus, "Le Mobilier du XVIII^eme et XVIII^eme Siècles," No. 214, pl. 36

Ex-collections Lord Hertford and Sir Richard Wallace; also in the collection George and Florence Blumenthal (catalogue pl. 36)

Gift of Hearst Magazines, Inc.

A.5770.47-37





Pair of Andirons

(height 17 inches, width 20 inches)

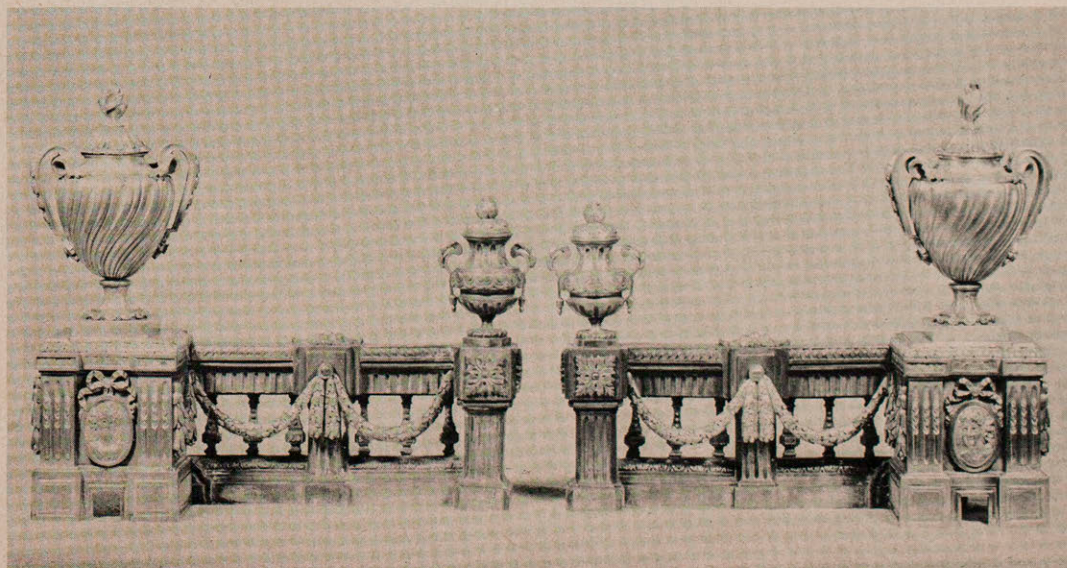
French, style Louis XVI, 18th Century

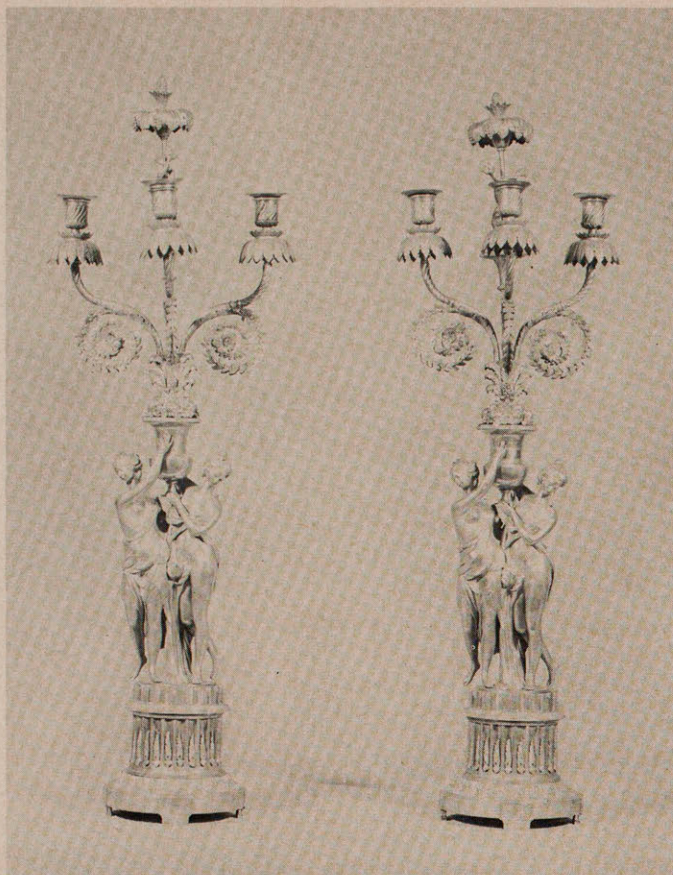
Or-molu, with large and smaller plinths joined by an open balustrade, all fronted with gilt laurel swags. Topped with a large and smaller urn, and the major plinth showing a female portrait head in an oval bowknotted medallion

Ex-collection Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt

Museum Purchase, 1955

P.247.55-2





Pair of Candelabra

(height 36½ inches)

French, style Louis XVI, 18th Century

Bronze doré after designs of the celebrated Etienne Falconet.

Upon a fluted plinth, two nymphs bearing an urn of fruit from which rise three candle branches with open laurel scrolls; the tall shaft entwined with two dolphins, with finial of leafage and a pineapple

Ex-collections Sir Murray Scott; Thomas B. Thorne of New York and Paris. Exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration, 1920

Gift of Hearst Magazines, Inc.

A.5770.47-42

Tapestry, "Psyche Contemplating Cupid"

(12 feet 4 inches x 10 feet)

French, 18th Century. Gobelins, signed: *Cozette fils*, 1792

One of the "Scenes du Theatre" adapted from the paintings of Charles Coypel by the painter Belle, *inspecteur de la Manufacture* (see Fenaille, vol. v, Ser. XV, no. 2). An identical tapestry is in the Musée du Louvre, Salon du Mobilier (No.268) and illustrated in the catalogue Carle Dreyfus, "Le Mobilier du XVII^{me} et XVIII^{me} Siècles," p.46

Ex-collection Henry Walters

Gift of J. Paul Getty

A.5895.51-7





Tapestry, a Scene in the Levant

(9 feet 8½ inches x 23 feet)

French, 18th Century. Royal Beauvais, signed: A•CC•BEAUVAIS

A luxurious garden scene with pavilions and pleasure boats, a Turkish potentate with musicians and attendants

Gift of William Randolph Hearst

A.5141.48-348

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